(b) if so, the outline of observations made in this regard in the report;

(c) whether Government are aware that the prevailing wages differential between male and female workers, in agricultural sector is reportedly at a level of 27.6 per cent taken as a proportion of male workers wage; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to eliminate gender inequity in wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per the recommendations of the Technical Group on Rural Retail Prices set up by NSSO, Wage Rate data in respect of 18 agriculture and non-agriculture occupations, entailing mannual work are being collected on monthly basis along with Rural Retail Prices by NSSO from 600 villages spread over 20 States in the country since July, 1996. Based on this information, the Labour bureau is compiling Average Wage Rates in Rural India for these selected states. Under the scheme, information is collected only in respect of prevailing Wage Rates in different occupations in Rural India. No data is collected on reasons for difference or inequality in wage rates between male and female workers.

(c) As per the data for the year 2004-05, compiled by the Labour Bureau, there is difference in the prevailing wage rates amount male and female workers. The prevailing wage rates among female workers as compared to male workers, vary from 58% to 82% of the male workers for the rural areas.

(d) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for equal remuneration without discrimination between men and women workers in respect of wages and other amenities. The Act is being implemented by the State Governments. The Central government regularly monitors the action taken by the State Governments in the implementation of the Equal Remuneration Act.

Uniform minimum wages for labourers

†967. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government's scheme for uniform minimum wages for the labourers in all the States; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) in what manner Government are removing the difference between the minimum wages of the labourers working in the National Rural Employment Scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development recently and the wage fixed by Ministry of Labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Central and the State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix/revise minimum wages in respect of their scheduled employments. Regional Committees have been constituted to deliberate, *inter alia*, on the issue of bringing about a uniformity in minimum wages. Besides, the Central Government has mooted the concept of the National Floor Level Minimum Wage, which stands at Rs. 66/- per day w.e.f. 1.2.2004. All the State Governments are persuaded to fix minimum wages at rates not below the level of the National Floor Level Minimum Wage.

(b) Under Section 6(1) of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), until such time as a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State Government under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area. The Central Government has not fixed any wage rate under Section 6(1) of the NREGA so far. Therefore, minimum wages fixed by the State Governments for agricultural labourers under the Minimum Wages Act are applicable.

Rescinding notification on fixed term employment

968. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3443, given in Rajya Sabha on 17-05-2006 and state:

(a) whether a tripartite meeting was held on 21st June, 2006 on the issue of rescinding the fixed term employment notification of December, 2003;

(b) if so, whether State Government representatives were present as stakeholders, as claimed by the Labour Department;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the final outcome of the meeting;